Message Text

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R 150802Z JUL 77 FM AMEMBASSY MANILA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2418

CONFIDENTIAL MANILA 10921

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PDIP, RP, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADORIAL CHANGES: VALENCIA REPORTS GOVERNOR BANJAMIN ROMUALDEZ HEADED FOR WASHINGTON

REF: (A) MANILA 10628; (B) MANILA 9611

1. THE FOLLOWING ITEM APPEARED IN VALENCIA'S DAILY EXPRESS COLUMN ON JULY 13. "THE SHIFT OF AMBASSADORS IS ON. LUIS MORENO SALCEDO GOES TO THE USSR. SOON, AMBASSADOR DANDING ROMUALDEZ IS EXPECTED TO MOVE TO TOKYO, GOVERNOR KOKOY ROMUALDEZ TO THE UN AND WASHINGTON, AMBASSADOR NARCISO G. REYES TO PEKING. ROMUALDEZ FITS THE TOKYO SPECIFICATIONS TO A T. HE WAS FORMERLY SECRETARY OF FINANCE AND CHAIRMAN OF OUR MONETARY BOARD. WE NEED AN ECONOMIST IN JAPAN."

2. COMMENT:

- (A) MORENO SALCEDO'S MOVE FROM PARIS TO MOSCOW HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED.
- (B) WITH THE ANTICIPATED WITHDRAWAL OF ROBERTO BENEDICTO FROM TOKYO (REF A), THE SENDING OF EDUARDO ROMUALDEZ (NOW IN WASHINGTON) TO JAPAN WOULD SEEM A NATURAL APPOINT-CONFIDENTIAL

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MENT, UTILIZING ROMUALDEZ' ECONOMIC EXPERIENCE AND KEEPING THIS KEY AMBASSADORSHIP "IN THE FAMILY." WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT ROMUALDEZ CONTINUES TO SEEK EARLY RETIREMENT IN MANILA.

(C) THE PROSPECTIVE PEKING-NEW YORK SWITCH OF NARCISO REYES AND BANJAMIN (KOKOY) ROMUALDEZ HAS BEEN

REPORTED FOR SOME TIME (REF B). HOWEVER, THIS IS
THE FIRST REPORT WEHAVE HAD THAT KOKOY ROMUALDEZ MIGHT BE
SLATED FOR WASHINGTON AS WELL AS NEW YORK. ON JULY 14
POL COUNSELOR ASKED DFA UNDERSECRETARY INGLES ABOUT THE KOKOY
MOVE AS REPORTED BY VALENCIA. INGLES DISAVOWED KNOWLEDGE
OF THE MOVE BUT DID NOTE THAT THERE WAS A PRECEDENT OF
A PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR (ROMULO) CONCURRENTLY HOLDING
BOTH THE WASHINGTON AND UN PERM REP POSITIONS. WE HEAR
FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT KOKOY HAS BEEN ANGLING FOR APPOINTMENT TO BOTH OF THESE POSITIONS BUT THAT A PRESIDENTIAL
DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE.
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TAGS: PDIP, RP, US, (ROMUALDEZ, BENJAMIN)

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